

Remarks

The Applicants have amended Claim 1 to clarify the polyetherdiol compound. That polyetherdiol compound is now specified as having oxyalkylene units consisting of at least one structural unit represented by formula (a) and at least one structural unit selected from formulas (b) and (c).

Claim 2 has been amended to correct a typographical error. The Applicants respectfully request that the changes to Claims 1 and 2 be entered into the official file.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 USC §112 as being indefinite. The Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's helpful comments with respect to the use of the word "type." Both occurrences of "type" in Claim 1 have been removed. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Tanaka. The Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's detailed comments hypothetically applying Tanaka against the claims. The Applicants nonetheless respectfully submit that Tanaka fails to disclose, either explicitly or implicitly, all of the subject matter recited in those claims. Details are set forth below.

Tanaka discloses a liquid polyethercarbonatediol which is a reaction product of a carbonate compound with a polyetherdiol compound having structural units (a): $-(CH_2)_6-O-$, structural units (b): $-(CH_2)_2-O-$ and/or structural units (c): $-CH_2CH(CH_3)-O-$, each being presented in an average number (n) or (m) of moles of 0 to 5 per mole of the units (a), and the total average number (n + m) of moles of the units (b) and (c) being more than 1, but not more than 5 per mole of the units (a).

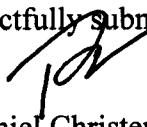
The Applicants' polyetherdiol does not include the oxyhexylene group $-(\text{CH}_2)_6\text{O}-$. A comparison of Examples 1 and 4 with Comparative Examples 1 and 3 shows that the polyetherdiol of Comparative Example 1 including oxyhexylene units $-(\text{CH}_2)_6\text{O}-$ and oxyethylene units $-(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{O}-$ and the polyetherdiol of Comparative Example 3 including the oxyhexylene units and oxypropylene units $-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ cause the resultant liquid polyethercarbonatediol to exhibit a lower viscosity and a lower glass transition temperature than those of Examples 1 and 4, and the resultant thermoplastic polymethane exhibits a lower ultimate elongation, a lower permanent elongation and lower tensile strength retention and ultimate elongation retention in weather resistance test, compared to those of Examples 1 and 4, as stated in Tables 1 to 4 and on page 35, lines 3 to 23 of the description.

Tanaka discloses in passage [0117], Table 2 and [0118] that 1,6-hexanediol enables the resultant polyethercarbonatediol to exhibit a decreased Tg and viscosity compared to those of conventional polyethercarbonatediols. Thus, Tanaka does not disclose, teach or suggest how to provide a thermoplastic polyurethane having an increased ultimate elongation.

In light of the above failure of Tanaka to explicitly or implicitly disclose all of the Applicants' claimed subject matter, the Applicants respectfully submit that Tanaka is inapplicable to Claims 1-20. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that the entire Application is now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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